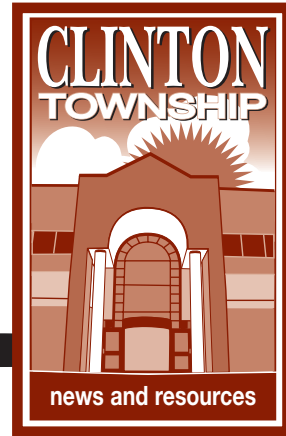


Clinton Currents



Volume 6, Issue 2

Clinton Township, Michigan

Special Edition 2006

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Voters to consider funding for Police Department on August 8, 2006

Clinton Township residents will have the opportunity to vote on the Police Department Operational Millage on August 8, 2006. The issue will appear on the primary ballot as follows:

Police Department Millage Proposition

Shall the constitutional tax limitation in the Charter Township of Clinton be increased by 1.5 mills (\$1.50 per \$1,000 of taxable value), which increase in millage will raise in the first year an estimated \$4,608,918 for a period of (20) years from 2007 to 2026, inclusive, as a new additional millage for the Police Department for operating purposes?

Answers to Frequently Asked Questions:

What is the August 8th police ballot proposal about?

A 1.5 operational millage increase is proposed for the Clinton Township Police Department, with all funds raised by the proposal going to the Police Department. It will be subject to the voter approved Headlee Amendment and will be in effect until 2026. It would be the first millage increase for police operations since 1984.



How have the township and the Police Department grown over the years?

The township formed its Police Department in 1968 with a 3-mill levy. In 1984 voters approved a 2-mill increase for a total of 5 mills. The level of the department's current 5-mill special assessment has remained the same since 1984. Since then the township's Police Department has grown from 51 officers serving a community of 74,000 residents to 105 officers serving the township's more than 97,000 residents. The township has

grown by 10,000 residents since 1990 alone, according to the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments. Today the Police Department annually responds to more than 50,320 incidents while patrolling the township's more than 300 miles of streets. The department annually makes more than 3,000 arrests.

(continued on page 5)

Clinton Township Civic Center
40700 Romeo Plank Road
Clinton Township, MI 48038

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Directory of Clinton Township Government Offices

Civic Center: (586) 286-8000 • 40700 Romeo Plank Road, Clinton Township, Michigan 48038 • Regular hours: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Assessing	286-9468	Information Technology	286-9434
Budget and Finance	286-9353	Parks and Recreation	286-9336
Building	286-9323	Planning and Community Development	286-9325
Cable TV and Communications	286-9316	Public Works (DPW)	286-9465
Clerk's Office	286-9422	Senior Center	286-9333
Elections Division	286-9420	Senior Center Bus Service	286-9476
Emergency Management	723-8069	Supervisor's Office	286-8000, Ext. 8093
Employees Civil Service	286-9342	Trustees/Administrative Aide	286-9366
Engineering	286-9387	Treasurer's Office	286-9313
Heritage Estates	263-5919	Water and Sewer	286-9300
Police	493-7800	After Hours Water Emergency	296-0687
Fire-Rescue-EMS	263-8437	41B District Court	286-8010

IN ANY EMERGENCY911

Housing Commission	791-7000
Human Resources	286-9341

Web site/E-mail addresses:

www.clintontownship-mi.gov

Township radio station for weather
and emergencies: 1610 AM

Township Calendar

Board Meetings

6:30 p.m. Civic Center

No July 3 Board Meeting

July 17, 31 • August 14, 28 • September 11, 25

October 10, 23 • November 13, 27

December 11, 27

Agenda items are due at the Clerk's Office
10 days prior to the board meeting.

Offices Closed

The township offices are closed
on the following holidays:

Independence Day • Labor Day

Columbus Day

Thanksgiving and day after

Christmas and day after

Rubbish Pickup

There will be no trash collection on

Independence Day and Labor Day,

Thanksgiving and Christmas days.

Rubbish collection will remain one day
behind for the remainder of the week, with
Friday's pickup on Saturday.

Summer 2006 Taxes

Due July 1, 2006, and payable without
interest through September 14, 2006.

CTTV Guide

Clinton Township's government access channel, CTTV, provides gavel to
gavel coverage of board meetings, following the schedule below.

Board Meetings on CTTV

Every other Monday – Live at 6:30 p.m.

Saturday following the meeting – 2:00 p.m. retecast

Tuesday of the following week – 8:00 p.m. retecast

Cable channels:

5 - Comcast subscribers

10 - Wide Open West subscribers

Meetings are closed captioned for the hearing impaired. In addition,
CTTV televises a variety of new weekly programming starting every
Friday. Check out the on-air program guide, which is also published for
pick-up at the civic center lobby.

Volume 6, Issue 2 • Special Edition 2006

News and resources for the residents of Clinton Township

Published by the Charter Township of Clinton,
40700 Romeo Plank Road, Clinton Twp., Mich. 48038.

**Cable TV and
Communications Department:**

Director

Linda A. Badamo

Clinton Currents Editor

Graphic Artist
Paw Graphics

Printing
Caldwell Printing

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Supervisor's Message

It is my privilege to extend to all of our residents and businesses a warm greeting.

I hope that the beautiful days of summer here in Michigan find you and your loved ones in good health and good humor. This edition of *Clinton Currents* contains many articles that should be very useful to you. As has been our practice for the past several years, we are again combining the township publication with the summer recreation publication to save money on printing and postage.

We have all been alarmed to see the rise in oil prices, and it has affected all of our budgets. The township does everything in its control to limit gas usage, but we are a service business and must perform daily with our vehicles. SEMCOG, or the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, has released a recommendation that some of us may be able to utilize to control our own transportation costs.

After housing, transportation accounts for the largest single household expense. Their contention is "why not share a ride to work?" Rideshare is a free service of SEMCOG, matching commuters who live and work near each other. Commuters save money on gasoline and maintenance, and reduce wear-and-tear on their vehicles—and on themselves. Ridesharing need not be done on a daily basis, only as individual schedules permit. This flexible arrangement only requires two people with similar schedules.

If you would be worried about getting home in case of an emergency, a program called "Guaranteed Ride Home" reimburses taxi fares up to six times per year if participants need to leave work unexpectedly or if they're asked to work unexpected overtime. The Rideshare program is free of charge, and personal information is kept confidential. For more information, an online application, or to figure your potential savings using an online calculator, visit www.semcog.org.

Also dealing with transportation, I have been informed this week that the three phases of the road widening of Cass, and ultimately Romeo Plank, as its name changes by the high school, are still on


schedule, and the project will begin this October. I am grateful to the Macomb County Road Commission for keeping this important project on their front burner. Also, the widening of Metro Parkway, or 16 Mile, will continue next summer beginning at Garfield and, if all goes well, will end at Gratiot by summer's end. Plans also call for continuation of the widening all the way to Jefferson.

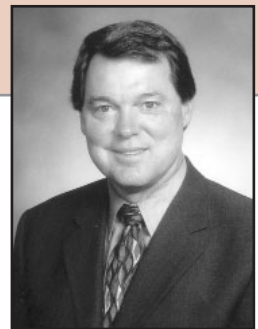
I realize that the widening of major roads is a great inconvenience during the construction period. For those who now use the newly widened 15 Mile, 16 Mile, or Garfield (between 15 and 16 mile), you know that the project was well worthwhile, and I expect that to be the case with the next two major projects in Clinton Township.

Having met recently with the management team at the Taubman Company, they have expressed their pleasure in coming to Clinton Township with their new shopping center, The Mall at Partridge Creek, on Hall Road. I, in turn thank you, the residents, for the part each of you has in making your community one that companies like Taubman want to locate in. I am proud to be the supervisor in this vibrant community.

I urge you to carefully read the material on the upcoming millage election for your Police Department. It is one of the most important issues that has come before our voters in many years. As with all elections, your vote is your voice. Don't forget to exercise this very important freedom.

Best wishes for a peaceful summer.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Cannon
Clinton Township Supervisor



Robert J. Cannon

Clinton Township Board:



Dennis C. Tomlinson
Clerk



Robert J. Cannon
Supervisor



William J. Sowerby
Treasurer



George Fitzgerald • Ernest O. Hornung • Dean Reynolds • Jenifer "Joie" West

Trustees

The elected members of the Clinton Township Board represent the residents of Clinton Township. The board meets every other Monday in the chambers at 40700 Romeo Plank Road. Phone (586) 286-8000 to reach your township board members.

Rubbish Disposal Reminder

All trash must be in plastic trash bags even when using trash cans. The trash haulers will not empty cans filled with loose garbage. Trash cans cannot be any larger than 32-gallon size and must not weigh more than 50 pounds per can. Cardboard boxes must be flattened and bundled. Do not fill cardboard boxes with trash.

Leaf and Yard Waste Removal Guidelines

Yard waste must be in Kraft paper compost bags or trash cans with no bags, affixed with Yard Waste stickers. The stickers are available from the Department of Public Works. Paper compost bags must be no more than 50 pounds and cans must be no more than 32-gallon size. Plastic bags are not acceptable for yard waste. Any yard debris in plastic bags will not be picked up.

For questions regarding rubbish removal, please contact the Department of Public Works at (586) 286-9465.

Keep your lawn and garden beautiful... and our water clean: some earth-friendly tips to remember

Did you know that an estimated 70 million pounds of pesticides are applied to lawns nationwide every year?

The chemicals in herbicides and pesticides can pollute our waterways when washed from our lawns and gardens into storm drains that lead directly to our lakes and rivers.

So what can you do to help? Simple. Protect your kids, pets, and the environment from the harmful effects of herbicides and pesticides by choosing earth-friendly landscaping. Here are some steps you can take to maintain your lawn and garden and help keep our water clean:

Select plants native to Michigan. Native plants require less fertilizer and water, and are more disease resistant. Native plants also attract butterflies and birds. Also, a wide variety of plants will help control pests and minimize the need for pesticides. Black-eyed Susan, Coral Bells, Purple Coneflower, and Columbine; Blueberry and Raspberry bushes; Christmas, Lady, and Maidenhair ferns; Black Walnut, Hickory, Douglas Fir, and White Pine trees are some examples of plants native to Michigan. All are easy to find in most local nurseries and greenhouses.

Remember that lawns need about one inch of water per week. Over-watering results in plants that are less tolerant of heat and drought, and more prone to disease. Avoid raking leaves into storm drains or roadside ditches because they use up water's oxygen and harm fish. Mow leaves into your lawn — they make a good fertilizer! Finally, make your lawn cheaper and easier to maintain by mowing high — three inches is the rule. Tall grass promotes root growth and shades out weeds.

For more easy steps on protecting our lakes and rivers, visit the "Ours to Protect" site at www.semcog.org.

New floodplain maps to be adopted

Clinton Township will be adopting new Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) floodplain maps at the end of September 2006. These new floodplain maps have been overlaid on the 2004 Macomb County aerial maps. If your home was built before 2004 it will be shown on these maps. These new maps make it easier to determine where your home lies in relationship to the 100-year floodplain or Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA).

Why is this important to you? This is important because you may have been required to pay for flood insurance in the past and if the new map shows you are out of the regulated 100-year floodplain, you may not be required to pay for flood insurance anymore. The opposite might be true, too, if this map shows your home in the regulated 100-year floodplain. In that case you may be required to get flood insurance, even though you may not have needed it in the past. The township has reviewed these maps, and has requested numerous changes to these maps which should minimize the impact on residents. A majority of these changes have been incorporated into these maps and the final maps are now available. You can find these maps in both the Engineering Department and the Planning Department.

Why should we talk about floods? Flooding is the nation's #1 natural disaster. A flood could result from a hurricane or from a small localized event, such as a typical afternoon thunderstorm. Within a recent 10-year period (1995-2004), flood losses in the United States averaged \$867 million per year. Currently, nearly 4.7 million policyholders are protected with flood insurance policies; however, many more homeowners remain at risk. Though floods routinely strike residential areas across the country, every year millions of uninsured homeowners, business owners and renters are devastated when their property is damaged by flooding. At this time, Clinton Township has just over 100 flood insurance policies issued by the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

Anyone who lives in Clinton Township is eligible to obtain flood insurance with NFIP. A home located within an SFHA has a 26% chance of being damaged by a flood over the life of a 30-year mortgage and your homeowner's insurance will not cover flood damage. This is why flood insurance is mandatory for all federally backed mortgages in the 100-year floodplain. Your home doesn't have to be in a flood zone to get flooded. Flood insurance is available at a reduced rate for these properties not located in the 100-year floodplain. Between 20 - 25% of the NFIP claims come from outside high flood risk areas and/or the 100-year floodplain.

If you have any questions regarding the location of your home and the floodplain, please feel free to contact either the Engineering Department at (586) 286-9387 or the Planning Department at (586) 286-9325, and we will be glad to assist you.

Voters to consider funding for Police Department on August 8, 2006

(continued from page 1)

What has the township done to reduce costs before having to ask for a millage increase for the police?

The township has reduced expenditures and the number of employees township-wide. For example, 36 positions have been eliminated in a variety of township departments, eliminating both payroll and benefit costs for those positions that are left unfilled. Overall township expenditures, excluding the cost for employees, is down by more than 25 percent or \$1.1 million. The Police Department alone is down by seven police officers and four civilian support personnel. At the same time, the department has made reductions that resulted in more than \$1.25 million in cost savings annually. It no longer operates a K-9 unit. The Special Investigations Division that specializes in narcotics crimes has been disbanded in order to continue funding the road patrol. The Records Department is now open to the public only two days a week.



Clinton Township police officers constantly sharpen crime-fighting skills in service to citizens they promise to protect.

Why does the Board of Trustees believe we need a millage increase for the Police Department?

Funding for the Police Department from the 5-mill special assessment will fall short of paying for police services by more than \$2.8 million this year despite the severe cutbacks in police personnel and police budget. In the past this shortfall would have been covered by transferring funds to the police from the township's savings account in the general fund.

What now makes this transfer of funds increasingly difficult is the State of Michigan's reduced revenue sharing funding to all municipalities. The township has in the past used revenue sharing funds to help offset the cost of township operations, including the police, without having to turn to voters for a millage increase. Unfortunately, during the past three years Clinton Township has lost more than \$7 million in state revenue sharing funds, forcing the township to dramatically increase the size of its annual subsidy from the general fund to pay for police operations. The township's savings account previously used to subsidize the Police Department is now gone. It is important to note that even if voters approve the millage increase, the Board of Trustees will continue to monitor spending on an ongoing basis to ensure continued fiscal prudence.

What will the Police Department do with the funding from the proposed millage increase?

First and foremost, the department will be able to re-hire police officers previously eliminated through attrition and budget cuts. Road patrol operations would be stepped up, as building and housing continue to expand in the township, such as the downtown development and re-development along Gratiot and Groesbeck, along with new development of hundreds of acres of land throughout the community. On behalf of the residents, Clinton Township police patrol roads and streets, and specific sites where people from other communities come to visit, shop, work and dine. Additional officers have been needed to continue to keep this community safe for everyone. The millage would also restore funding to some of the operations that have been reduced or eliminated because of budget problems over the past several years.

The millage funds generated from the August 8 primary election ballot proposal are to be dedicated solely to the Police Department.

If the general fund subsidy to the Police Department is \$2.8 million this year, and the proposed millage would generate \$4.5 million, does this mean there will be extra funds?

Remember, the Police Department has already reduced its annual spending by \$1.25 million despite the general fund subsidy. The spending reductions have contributed to the loss of police officers, the elimination of the Special Investigations Division and K-9 unit, and other cutbacks. In addition, as the township continues to develop the need for police services will continue to grow. The reductions and subsidy combined would be replaced by the funds generated by the millage proposal. Any other funds would go toward the Police Department's future needs for effective community protection.

At the same time, the general fund subsidy would be redirected toward rebuilding the township's savings account in order to ensure the community's favorable bond rating as well as to plan for future needs.

If we are being asked to approve a dedicated police millage, why do other township services hinge on its success?

If the police millage is rejected, the Police Department after making additional substantial reductions will continue to have to draw from the shrinking general fund. This will leave even less money for other township services. Every operation in the township will be affected. Ultimately, we will see reductions in many services that the residents of Clinton Township have come to appreciate and rely on.

How do I learn more about the Police Department's Operational Millage Ballot Proposal?

To find out more about the ballot proposal contact Citizens to Maintain Police Services by calling (586) 489-5615 or go to their website: www.keepclintonsafe.com.

News from the Senior Center

The Clinton Township Senior Center is proud to have accepted a \$70,000 donation pledge from the Jane and Frank Warchol Foundation. The money was pledged for the exclusive use to design and build a permanent portico at the entrance of the Senior Center. We are very pleased and excited with this very generous donation; it will make an excellent addition to the Senior Center facility.

The Clinton Township Board of Trustees approved the architectural firm of Partners in Architecture & JFR Architects to move forward with the Senior Center's Bill and Toni Lee Senior Citizen Health and Wellness Center expansion. The Senior Center's staff and members have been working diligently over the last 10 years to raise dollars to cover the cost of the expansion and necessary equipment. "We are very fortunate that the residents and seniors in our community have embraced the SPACE program and have found it an essential service that we provide to the community," stated Matthew Makowski, Senior Center Director. "The seniors raised over \$390,000 with various fundraisers, private donations and grant funds." There will be no general revenue dollars spent on this expansion. This project will be privately funded by the SPACE fundraising program. If all goes as planned, the project is expected to be completed near the end of 2006.



Debbie McClellan (right) was recently appointed as assistant director of our dynamic and award winning Senior Citizens Department. "Debbie has made an excellent addition with her radiant smile and wonderful personality," says Matt Makowski (left), Director of the Senior Center. Debbie is excited about assisting the Senior Center in "redefining retirement" and meeting the needs of our older residents. Welcome Debbie McClellan.

VOTER INFORMATION

Check your voter information, go to
<https://www.mcgi.state.mi.us/mivote/votersearch.aspx>

To vote in the August 8 primary election, be sure you are
registered to vote by July 10, 2006.

Call the Clerk's Elections Division at (586) 286-9420

Sister City Japanese Festival coming!

This summer, Clinton Township will again be hosting a delegation of visitors from our Sister City in Japan. On Tuesday, July 11, 2006, the biannual "Japanese Festival" will be held at the Main Branch of the Clinton-Macomb Public Library. Learn more about Japan as you experience a sampling of Japanese culture as our visitors showcase their talents. Activities will include interactive games, traditional Japanese food samplings, an exhibition of Taiko - traditional Japanese drums, Japanese calligraphy, an opportunity to model traditional Japanese kimono and more! The event will run from 4 to 8 p.m. All ages are welcome.

For more information on the festival or the township's Sister City program, contact Cindy Leckvarcik at (586) 286-9161 or Mary Ann Hosey at (586) 286-9366.

CLINTON TOWNSHIP 2006 SUMMER TAX INFORMATION

Summer taxes become due July 1 and are payable without interest through September 14. Summer taxes include the following levies:

- State Education
- School Debt, levied by your local school district
- School Operating, levied by your local school district
- Macomb Community College
- Macomb Intermediate School District
- Mount Clemens Public Library, levied on all property within the Mount Clement School District
- 2/3 of the annual Macomb County operating tax

Summer tax bills are mailed the first week of July.

Failure to receive this tax bill does not waive responsibility for making payment by the due date. If you do not receive a bill at this time, please call the Treasurer's Office at (586) 286-9313.

Property tax data available online

Use the power of the Internet to check on all your property tax information. Go to www.clintontownship-mi.gov and click on Township Home, then on the Property Tax Data link. You can search the database for any property in Clinton Township by owner name, address (use only the numerical portion) or parcel number.